

6.0 COMMENTS AND COORDINATION

6.1 AGENCY COMMENTS

Resource Agency correspondence received since the 2008 CE is included in Appendix A. These include a memorandum from the NC Department of Cultural Resources indicating that no survey for historic or archaeological resources is required as a result of expanding the study area. Early in the project, the Wilmington MPO requested bicycle lanes for the project length. The appendix includes a recent letter from the Wilmington MPO requesting bicycle lanes, as well as a December 2010 resolution from the MPO endorsing the quadrant alternative as the preferred alternative. Refer to Appendix B of the 2008 CE for prior agency correspondence.

6.2 CITIZENS INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOPS AND NEWSLETTERS

A newsletter updating the public on the project's status and introducing the new quadrant alternatives was mailed in March 2010. A Citizens Informational Workshop was held on April 19, 2010 at the Warwick Center on the campus of the University of North Carolina-Wilmington. The workshop was conducted in an open house-style format between 4:00 pm and 7:00 pm. Brief presentations were made at 4:00 and 6:00. The purpose of the workshop was to provide the public an opportunity to learn about the project, ask questions and make comments or offer input to project representatives. Fifty-one people signed in. Nine comment forms were completed. Comments were generally supportive of Alternative 2 quadrant options. Most concerns related to noise and right of way impacts of the widening portion of the project. Some property owners expressed concern about access to their properties as a result of the median and the quadrant configuration. The relevant properties are located near the intersection of Kerr Avenue and Market Street. A workshop summary as well as the newsletter can be reviewed in the project file.

A second newsletter and workshop are planned for Spring/Summer 2011.

6.3 ALTERNATIVES SELECTION MEETING

A meeting was held on November 3 to review the alternatives being evaluated in the CE Addendum and to select a recommended alternative. The alternatives were summarized, including a discussion of impacts, estimated costs, and traffic operations. After discussing pros and cons of each quadrant alternative, it was the consensus of the group to eliminate Option B and present the Conventional Design and Option C to the Wilmington MPO prior to making a final decision on quadrant vs. conventional. Reasons for eliminating Alternative 2 Option B included:

- Lack of connectivity at McClelland Drive
- Birchwood drivers who want to go north on Kerr Avenue would have to turn right onto Kerr Avenue, cross Market Street, make a U-turn at Cinema Drive, and then cross Market Street again. This is a much longer distance to travel, also requiring drivers to cross three more signals than Option C. Option C requires eastbound McClelland drivers who want to turn left onto Kerr Ave to travel a short distance southward on Kerr Ave before making a U-turn at Birchwood Drive.
- Three additional residential relocations.
- Higher overall cost.
- Comparable traffic operations.
- Higher impacts to jurisdictional resources.